

What is claimed is:

1. An image communication device comprising:

image receiving means for receiving an image;

image mute control means for automatically judging

- 5 whether or not the image received by the image receiving means is output; and

image outputting means for outputting the image received by the image receiving means through a wire communication line or a radio communication line in cases where the image mute control means judges to output the image.

2. An image communication device according to claim 1, wherein the image mute control means controls the image outputting means not to output the image received by the

- 15 image receiving means when a power is supplied to the image communication device, and the image mute control means controls the image outputting means according to a mute-off instruction to output the image received by the image receiving means.

- 20 3. An image communication device according to claim 1, further comprising:

time managing means for managing a passing time, wherein the image mute control means judges according to the passing time managed by the time managing means whether or not the image received by the image receiving means is output.

4. An image communication device according to claim 1, further comprising:

an electronic phone book for setting a mute-off state for each of other some ends of communication, wherein the image mute control means judges that the image received by the image receiving means is output to one end of communication in cases where the mute-off state is set for the end by the electronic phone book, and the image mute control means judges that the image received by the image receiving means is not output to one end of communication in cases where no mute-off state is set for the end by the electronic phone book.

5. An image communication device according to claim 1, further comprising:

error monitoring means for monitoring a degree of error occurring in the communication line, wherein the image mute control means judges according to the degree of error monitored by the error monitoring means whether or not the image received by the image receiving means is output.

6. An image communication device according to claim 1, further comprising:

image storing means for storing an image in advance, wherein the image stored by the image storing means is output by the image outputting means in cases where the image mute control means judges to output the image stored by the image storing means in place of the image received by the image receiving means.

7. An image communication method, comprising the steps of:

receiving an image;

automatically judging whether or not the received image is output; and

outputting the received image through a wire

5 communication line or a radio communication line in cases
where it is judged to output the received image.